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EXAMINER

TRAN, HAI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/852,229	Applicant(s) CRISTOFALO ET AL.	
	Examiner Hai Tran	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 and 76 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-75 and 77-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/27/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 01/27/2006 have been fully considered and, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Boylan, III et al. (US 6799326).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-7, 9-75, and 77-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boucher et al. (WO 00/51310) in view of Boylan, III et al. (US 6799326).

Claim 1, Boucher discloses a method of increasing a quantity of differentiable programming content (presentations, i.e., a composite data object; page 10, lines 8-10; page 12, lines 12-18; page 21, lines 7-18) available in a digital programming transmission stream (page 7, lines 24-page 8, lines 16) comprising:

Creating a plurality of digital programming components (data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements; page 26, lines 4-33; page 43, lines 1-7), the plurality of digital programming components utilizing a bandwidth of the digital programming

transmission stream less than or equal to a bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment, wherein the standard digital programming segment is a unit of differentiable programming content (page 40, lines 20-page 42);

Defining at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components to comprise at least one component programming segment (reads on grouping into or defining subgroups, i.e. geographic location, affinity groups or profession, from among data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements page 68, lines 17-32), wherein the at least one component programming segment is also a unit of differentiable programming content (data objects, multimedia elements (in which data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements compose the presentations page 12, lines 12-18); and

Inserting at least the at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components (encoding non-selected data to the remote client, i.e., still/video images/data objects, Scripts based geographic or by affinity group or by profession, and so on; page 38, lines 2-3; page 53, lines 27-page 54, lines 10) into the digital programming transmission stream (page 60, lines 2-32);

wherein, without increasing the bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment, the quantity of differentiable programming content available in the digital programming transmission stream is able to be increased by the number of units of differentiable programming content corresponding to the at least one component programming segment (page 57, lines 5-page 58, lines 21; page 60, lines 29-page 61, lines 10 and page 69, lines 11-26).

Boucher does not clearly disclose, "wherein the at least one subset of the digital programming components replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission stream".

Boylan discloses, "wherein the at least one subset of the digital programming components replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission" (stream local advertisement data replaces global advertisement in the global transmission stream; Col. 9, lines 20-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Boucher with the teaching of Boylan, so to provide to advertising business a way of advertising commercials that particularly suitable for targeting small geographic region of interest.

Claim 2, Boucher discloses a method of providing an increased quantity of differentiable programming content in a programming transmission system, the differentiable programming content transmitted via a digital programming transmission stream, to a plurality of users is further analyzed with respect to claim 1, in which "the synchronizing a plurality of digital programming components, the plurality of digital programming components utilizing a bandwidth of the digital programming transmission stream less than or equal to a bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment, wherein the standard digital programming segment is a unit of differentiable programming content" reads on various method of encoding (MPEG page 50, lines 32-page 52, lines 25; page 60,

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lines 19-20).) of data types (video, audio, graphics data, etc..) that synchronize (page 23, lines 20-25; page 43, lines 15-20) in order to maximize the number of users to which the presentations can be distributed within a given channel bandwidth, see page 13, lines 4-6; page 21, lines 8-page 23, lines 11; page 43, lines 15-20);

Claim 3, Boucher discloses a method of receiving an increased quantity of differentiable programming content in a programming transmission system, the differentiable programming content received by at least one user via a digital programming transmission stream (page 69, lines 22-page 70, lines 17), the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of synchronized digital programming components in the digital programming transmission stream, the plurality of digital programming components utilizing a bandwidth of the digital programming transmission stream less than or equal to a bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment, wherein the standard digital programming segment is a unit of differentiable programming content (page 23, lines 20-25; page 43, lines 15-20; page 67, lines 6-31; page 68, lines 9-15); and

selecting for presentation at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components, the at least one subset comprising at least one component programming segment,

wherein the at least one component programming segment is also a unit of differentiable programming content (page 58, lines 23-30);

wherein, without increasing the bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment, the quantity of differentiable programming content received in the digital programming transmission stream is able to be increased by the number of units of differentiable programming content corresponding to the at least one component programming segment (page 57, lines 5-page 58, lines 21; page 60, lines 29-page 61, lines 10 and page 69, lines 11-26).

Boucher does not clearly disclose, "wherein the at least one subset of the digital programming components replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission stream".

Boylan discloses, "wherein the at least one subset of the digital programming components replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission" (stream local advertisement data replaces global advertisement in the global transmission stream; Col. 9, lines 20-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Boucher with the teaching of Boylan, so to provide to advertising business a way of advertising commercials that particularly suitable for targeting small geographic region of interest.

Claim 4, Boucher discloses a method for creating differentiable programming content, wherein a quantity of differentiable programming content

available for transmission in a digital programming transmission stream is increased is analyzed with respect to claims 1 and 2.

Claim 5, Boucher further discloses inserting the plurality of digital programming components (data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements; page 26, lines 4-33; page 43, lines 1-7), into the digital programming transmission stream (page 35, lines 5-3; page 62, lines 15-30).

Claim 6, Boucher further discloses wherein the at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components (page 68, lines 23-38) replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission stream (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 60, lines 7-20).

Claim 7, Boucher further discloses wherein the at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components (page 68, lines 23-38) is inserted into the digital programming transmission stream in addition to the standard digital programming segment (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 58, lines 8-21)

Claim 9, Boucher further discloses wherein the plurality of digital programming components (data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements; page 26, lines 4-33; page 43, lines 1-7) is inserted into the digital programming transmission

stream in addition to the standard digital programming segment (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 58, lines 8-21).

Claim 10, Boucher further discloses wherein the standard digital programming segment (page 40, lines 20-page 42, lines 20) is reduced in quality and therefore utilizes less than the bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment (page 51, lines 22-Col. 52, lines 20).

Claim 11, Boucher further discloses wherein the standard digital programming segment is reduced in quality and therefore utilizes less than the bandwidth normally allocated for a standard digital programming segment (page 40, lines 20-page 42, lines 21; page 51, lines 22-Col. 52, lines 20).

Claim 12, Boucher further discloses wherein the plurality of digital programming components (data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements; page 26, lines 4-33; page 43, lines 1-7) replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission stream (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 60, lines 7-20).

Claim 13, Boucher further discloses wherein the plurality of digital programming components (data objects, Scripts, multimedia elements; page 26, lines 4-33; page 43, lines 1-7) is received in the digital programming transmission

stream in addition to the standard digital programming segment (Col. 39, lines 10-
page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 58, lines 8-21).

Claim 14, Boucher further discloses wherein the standard digital programming
segment is reduced in quality and therefore utilizes less than the bandwidth normally
allocated for a standard digital programming segment (page 40, lines 20-page 42,
lines 21; page 51, lines 22-Col. 52, lines 20).

Claim 15, Boucher further discloses wherein the plurality of digital
programming components are selected from the group consisting of: video, still-
frame video, audio, graphics, text, animation, and media objects (page 26, lines 4-8).

Claim 16, Boucher further discloses wherein the still-frame video comprises
scalable video frames (page 15, lines 18- page 17, lines 33; page 41, lines 17-24;
page 61, lines 13-17).

Claim 17, Boucher further discloses wherein the audio comprises less than
CD-quality audio (page 44, lines 1-7).

Claim 18, Boucher further discloses comprising digitally compressing the
plurality of digital programming components (frames (page 41, lines 17-24).

Claim 19, Boucher further discloses comprising digitally decompressing the plurality of digital programming components (page 67, lines 28-31).

Claim 20, Boucher further discloses wherein the digital programming transmission stream is carried over a transmission medium selected from the group consisting of: terrestrial television broadcast, cable, satellite, microwave, radio, telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, fiber optic, a personal communications network, and a communication network (page 31, lines 11-page 32, lines 15).

Claim 21, Boucher further discloses wherein the digital programming transmission stream is transmitted over a transmission medium selected from the group consisting of: terrestrial television broadcast, cable, satellite, microwave, radio, telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, fiber optic, a personal communications network, and a communication network (page 31, lines 11-page 32, lines 15).

Claim 22, Boucher further discloses wherein the digital programming transmission stream is received over a transmission medium selected from the group consisting of; terrestrial television broadcast, cable, satellite, microwave, radio, telephony, wireless telephony, digital subscriber line, fiber optic, a personal

communications network, and a communication network (page 31, lines 11-page 32, lines 15).

Claim 23, Boucher further discloses wherein the communication network is selected from the group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a local area network, a wide area network, a public network, and a private network (page 31, lines 11-page 32, lines 15).

Claim 24, Boucher further discloses wherein the differentiable programming content comprises advertising programming content (page 68, lines 29-32).

Claim 25, Boucher further discloses wherein the differentiable programming content comprises programming content selected from the group consisting of: news, sports, entertainment, situation comedy, music video, game show, movie, drama, educational programming, interactive video gaming, and live programming (page 21, lines 13-33).

Claim 26, Boucher further discloses comprising synchronizing the plurality of digital programming components (page 23, lines 20-25; page 43, lines 15-20; page 60, lines 19-20).

Claim 27, Boucher further discloses comprising targeting the at least one component programming segment toward at least one of a plurality of users receiving the digital programming transmission stream (page 21, lines 12-18; page 59, lines 10-33; page 68, lines 23-32).

Claim 28, Boucher further discloses comprising targeting the at least one component programming segment toward at least one of the plurality of users to provide particular differentiable programming content to the at least one of the plurality of users (page 21, lines 12-18; page 59, lines 10-33; page 68, lines 23-32).

Claim 29, Boucher further discloses wherein the at least one component programming segment is targeted toward the at least one of the plurality of users based upon user profile information of the at least one of the plurality of users accessible by the programming transmission system (page 21, lines 12-18; page 59, lines 10-33; page 68, lines 23-32).

Claim 30, Boucher further discloses comprising determining whether the at least one component programming segment is targeted toward the at least one user to provide particular differentiable programming content to the at least one user, and wherein the step of selecting is based upon a determination that the at least one component programming segment is targeted toward the at least one user (page 21, lines 12-18; page 59, lines 10-33; page 68, lines 23-32).

Claim 31, Boucher further discloses comprising accessing user profile information of the at least one user to determine whether the at least one component programming segment is targeted toward the at least one user based upon the user profile information of the at least one user (page 21, lines 12-18; page 59, lines 10-33; page 68, lines 23-32).

Claim 32, Boucher further discloses comprising outputting the at least one component programming segment to a presentation device for presentation to the at least one user (page 23, lines 28-32; page 25, lines 31-page 26, lines 8; page 54, lines 25-33; page 56, lines 29-33; page 58, lines 28-30).

Claim 33, Boucher further discloses comprising switching from a first of the at least one component programming segment to a second of the at least one component programming segment (page 23, lines 28-32; page 25, lines 31-page 26, lines 8; page 54, lines 25-33; page 56, lines 29-33; page 58, lines 28-30).

Claim 34, Boucher further discloses comprising outputting the first and second of the at least one component programming segment in sequence to a presentation device for presentation to the at least one user, and wherein the step of switching is seamless, whereby the switch is performed without a delay perceptible by the at least one user between presentation of the first of the at least one

component programming segment and presentation of the second of the at least one component programming segment on the presentation device (page 23, lines 28-32; page 25, lines 31-page 26, lines 8; page 54, lines 25-33; page 56, lines 29-33; page 58, lines 28-30).

Claim 35, Boucher further discloses wherein the presentation device comprises a device selected from the group consisting of: television, radio, video tape player, audio tape player, digital video disk player, compact digital disk player, minidisk player, digital file player, video game player, computer, personal digital assistant device, telephone, wireless telephone, and a telephony device for the deaf (page 21, lines 25,29, 33; page 32, lines 20-22).

Claims 36 and 38, Boucher discloses a system (Fig. 1) for providing an increased quantity of differentiable programming content in a programming transmission system, the differentiable programming content transmitted via a digital programming transmission stream, to a plurality of users is analyzed with respect to method claims 1, 2 and 4, the system (Fig. 1) comprising:

an encoder (Fig. 3; el. 360A..X) that interleaves a plurality of synchronized digital programming components and a transmitter (Fig. 1, el. 135A..X and fig. 2) that transmits the plurality of digital programming components in the digital programming transmission stream to the plurality of users.

Claims 37 and 39, Boucher discloses a system for receiving an increased quantity of differentiable programming content in a programming transmission system (Fig. 1, el. 155 or 165 or 175), the differentiable programming content received by at least one user via a digital programming transmission stream is analyzed with respect to method claim 3. The system further inherently comprises a tuner, a decoder and processor so to perform as disclosed.

Claims 40 and 41 are analyzed with respect to claims 6 and 8.

Claims 42 and 43 are analyzed with respect to claim 9.

Claim 44, Boucher further discloses wherein the receiver receives the plurality of digital programming components in the digital programming transmission stream in place of the standard digital programming segment (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 60, lines 7-20).

Claim 45, Boucher further discloses wherein the receiving means receives the plurality of digital programming components in the digital programming transmission stream in place of the standard digital programming segment (Col. 39, lines 10-page 40, lines 10; page 55, lines 1-page 56, lines 5; page 60, lines 7-20).

Claims 46 and 47 are analyzed with respect to claim 13.

Claim 48, A system as described in claim 42, claim 43, claim 46, or claim 47 is analyzed with respect to claim 10.

Claim 49, A system as described in claim 36, claim 37, claim 38, or claim 39 is analyzed with respect to claim 15.

Claim 50 is analyzed with respect to claim 16.

claim 51 is analyzed with respect to claim 17.

Claim 52, Boucher discloses a system as described in claim 36 further comprising a digital compressor (see Fig. 3, 373. 383) that compresses the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the multiplexer (360A-X and 365).

Claim 53, Boucher discloses a system as described in claim 38 further comprising a means (see Fig. 3, 373. 383) for digital compressing the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the combining means (360A-X and 365).

Claims 54 and 55 limitations "further comprising a digital decompressor that decompresses the plurality of digital programming components, and wherein the

processor further coordinates and directs the function of the decompressor” and “further comprising means for digitally decompressing the plurality of digital programming components, and wherein the processing means further coordinates and directs the function of the decompressing means” are inherently met by Boucher receiving system so to perform as disclose.

Claim 56, Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 36 further comprising a synchronization component that synchronizes the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the multiplexer (page 23, lines 20-25; page 43, lines 15-20).

Claim 57, Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 38 further comprising a means for synchronizing the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the combining means (page 23, lines 20-25; page 43, lines 15-20).

Claim 58, A Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 36 further comprising a modulator that modulates the multiplexed digital programming components before they reach the transmitter (see Fig. 2; el. 250A..X).

Claim 59. Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 38 further comprising a means for modulating the combined digital programming components before they reach the transmitting means Fig. 2; el. 250A..X).

Claim 60, Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 36 further comprising a memory for storing the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the multiplexer (see Fig. 3, el. 301).

Claim 61, Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 38 further comprising a means for storing the plurality of digital programming components before they reach the combining means (see Fig. 3, el. 301).

Claim 62, Boucher further discloses a system as described in claim 36 further comprising a memory that stores user profile information of the at least one of the plurality of users (Fig. 3, el. 394), "wherein the processor further coordinates and directs the function of the memory, and wherein the at least one component programming segment is targeted to the at least one of the plurality of users based upon the user profile information of the at least one of the plurality of users, to provide particular differentiable programming content to the at least one of the plurality of users" is further met by Boucher as analyzed with respect to the above claim 28.

Claim 63, "wherein the at least one component programming segment is targeted toward the at least one user to provide particular differentiable programming content to the at least one user, and wherein the signal selector further selects the at least one component programming segment based upon information in the at least one subset of the plurality of digital programming components that the at least one component programming segment is targeted to the at least one user." is further met by Boucher as analyzed with respect to the above claim 30.

Claim 64, "further comprising a memory for storing user profile information of the at least one user, wherein the signal selector further selects the at least one component programming segment that is targeted to the at least one user based upon the user profile information of the at least one user." is further met by Boucher as analyzed with respect to the above claim 31.

Claim 65 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 20.

Claim 66 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 22.

Claim 67 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 20.

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Claim 68 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 22.

Claim 69 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 22.

Claim 70 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 24.

Claim 71 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 25.

Claim 72 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 33.

Claim 73 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 34.

Claim 74 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 35.

Claims 75, A computer program product for instructing a computer controlled digital programming reception system with interactive programming technology to select targeted differentiable programming content for a user, the targeted differentiable programming content received at the reception system via a digital programming transmission stream in an increased quantity is further met by Boucher in view of Boylan with respect to the above analysis of claims 1-35.

Claim 77, A method of receiving an increased quantity of differentiable advertising segments in a programming transmission system, the differentiable advertising segments received by at least one user via a digital programming transmission stream is further met by Boucher in view of Boylan with respect to the above analysis of claim 3.

Claim 78 is further met by Boucher with respect to the above analysis of claim 15.

Claim 79, Boucher further discloses wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving the at least one command code in the digital programming transmission stream (page 45, lines 8-15).

Claim 80, Boucher further discloses comprising receiving the at least one command code from a user via a user interface (page 45, lines 8-15).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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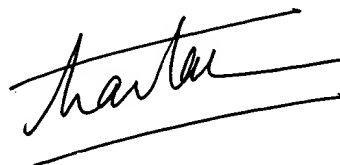
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HT:ht
04/14/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hai Tran', is written over two horizontal lines.

**HAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**